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# The Hartford News

February 11 – 17, 2021



## A SHOT IN THE ARM

**Some have had it, and some are still waiting. Hartford residents share their thoughts on the COVID-19 vaccine**

**BY DONNA SWARR**

After what seems like a very long wait, people around the country have begun the first round of inoculations in the fight to mitigate contracting and spreading the Coronavirus. Last week, a cross-section of city dwellers responded to a request to tell the Hartford News where they stand on how the drive to administer the shots is progressing, and how they feel about the process. Here are their personal and candid replies.

*“Now is the time to trust in science. Underserved communities are being hit the hardest. Make a difference; please vaccinate.”*

**Edward Casares, former Hartford Fire Chief**

*“I am looking forward to getting my COVID vaccination. I know that there is some concern or fears about taking the vaccination, but I believe that those fears should be overridden with the hope that we will be able to get this nasty outbreak under control.”*

**Jeff Stewart, Hartford resident**

*“400k Deaths due to COVID-19 is too much! Despite the hardships and health risks, millions of essential front-line workers have been fighting for us and continue to do their jobs during the pandemic. Now that the vaccine is available, let's do our part and get vaccinated. I'm ready for my turn!”*

**Sammy Vega, Dressler Law and Mega Education**

*“As a hospital-based medical provider, this year has been soul-crushing. Watching patients die without being able to help...holding up*



### Free COVID-19 Vaccinations at Dunkin Donuts Stadium

*Jose Colon was one of the estimated 200 Hartford residents who received a COVID-19 vaccination on Saturday, February 6, at Dunkin Donuts Stadium in Downtown Hartford. Administering the shot is Nicole Cammarota from the University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy. Mayor Luke Bronin said the free vaccine clinics, which are now taking appointments from CITY RESIDENTS AGE 65 AND OVER, will be held at the stadium every Saturday “for the foreseeable future.” (Hart photo)*

## Hartford...Once Upon a Time



*This 1958 photo was loaned to us by Beacon Furniture, which closed in 2011 after serving Hartford for decades. The store above was originally located on Front Street in Hartford's old East Side and the photograph was taken shortly before it was demolished to make way for Constitution Plaza. It relocated to Albany Avenue, where it remained for 50 years. Hundreds of business were forced to relocate for Constitution Plaza and other “urban renewal” projects in the 1960s – and the consequences are felt to this day.(Photo courtesy of Beacon Furniture)*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Vaccines Now Available to Those Over 65

The State of Connecticut has lowered the age for those now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations from 75 to 65. In addition to the free vaccination clinics now being held by the City of Hartford at Dunkin Donuts Stadium from 10am - 3pm on Saturdays, there are numerous other places to get your vaccination. All vaccinations available in Connecticut now require a second shot approximately four weeks later. You must make an appointment to receive your vaccination. For information on how to set up your appointment by phone or online, please see box on page 5.

### MARG Meets Tonight

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 11, at 6 pm in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Liany Arroyo, Director of the City of Hartford Department of Health will be on hand to answer questions about COVID-19 testing and vaccination. Public safety in the neighborhood will also be discussed. Those attending the meeting must wear masks and practice social distancing. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

### City Offices Closed Friday and Monday

Most City of Hartford offices will be closed this Friday, February 12, for Lincoln's Birthday, and Monday, February 15, for Washington's Birthday. Trash collection will be delayed one day next week.

### Conversations on CT's Past Discriminatory Practices Feb. 11-25

“(Re)building and Connecting Communities: Incorporating Cultural Humility in the Land of Steady Habits,” a series of virtual conversations on how Connecticut towns “have been complicit in creating and supporting

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# Urban League Black History Celebration February 18

## Virtual Event Showcases Greater Hartford’s Women of Color

On Thursday, February 18th at 6 p.m., the Urban League of Greater Hartford (ULGH) will host its 2021 signature Black History Celebration, “A Legacy Revealed – Paths to Purpose.” This virtual cultural event will honor and showcase the achievements and contributions of Greater Hartford’s women of color through the arts, advocacy, health equity, community enrichment, youth achievement, racial equity and philanthropy.

“Everyone who joins us online for the 6th annual Black History Celebration will enjoy a multi-sensory entertaining and educational experience celebrating Hartford’s history and culture, and women of color,” explains David Hopkins, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Hartford, whose programs and operations impact more than 3,000 individuals and their families every year in the areas of youth development, adult education, workforce development, housing, community health, and social justice. “This year’s event will celebrate women of African-American, Afro-Latina, and Afro-Caribbean descent.”

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Virtual Interactive Exhibit – Discover the rich history, resources, services and activities offered by individuals and organizations in the Greater Hartford community. Attendees may

enter for a chance to win giveaways while they engage virtually.

7 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Virtual Legacy Showcase – Music, poetry, and dance presentations, and the ULGH’s 2021 Legacy Honors recipients: Denise Best; Angela Harris; Sincere Mickens; Michelle McFarland; LaShawn Robinson; and Rosaida Morales Rosario.

The event is free and will be livestreamed on YouTube and [www.facebook.com/ulgh64](http://www.facebook.com/ulgh64).

For tickets, sponsorship, ad placements, or to be an exhibitor, register at: [www.ulghlegacyrevealed2021.eventbrite.com](http://www.ulghlegacyrevealed2021.eventbrite.com).

For questions or more information, call 860-728-4291 or email [kyrinda@ulgh.org](mailto:kyrinda@ulgh.org).

Proceeds from the support of sponsors and individual donors help fund Urban League programs and operations. Donations are welcomed and can be made at: [www.ulgh.org/donate](http://www.ulgh.org/donate)

Corporate partners include Webster Bank, Pratt & Whitney, Comcast, Barnes Group, Inc., Stanley Black & Decker, Bank of America, Delta Dental, Bob’s Discount Furniture, OTIS Elevator, The Root Center for Advanced Recovery, Trinity Health/St. Francis Hospital, Jewish Federation and Community Foundation, UCONN Health, and Entercom Communications.



# THE PRICE IS WRONG

## City Council Democrats pony up \$3,150 to hire a DTC member to write 500 words

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

There oughta be a law. A law against lawyers charging \$6.30 per word to ghost-write a short press release. A short press release that contained at least six typographical errors. Hired by a City Council that already boasts two attorneys in its membership, in a city that employs at least 10 lawyers in its Corporation Counsel’s office. But should we be surprised by this? Nearly all litigation that involves the city of Hartford as a defendant – and there’s an awful lot of that—is handled by private law firms rather than in-house attorneys, and at private firm prices. Even just one court case that drags on for a long time can add up to \$100,000 in legal fees – money that comes out of the city budget; taxpayer (that’s us!) money.

Here’s the rub: The Democratic Town Committee member they hired is also an attorney, whose going rate is \$250 an hour for legal work, but the press release they engaged him to write had nothing to do with the law and required no legal expertise. No, it was a statement to the media from the Democrats on council condemning the HPD “dead pool” mess. It consisted of a brief statement from each of the six expressing how they were by turns “disgusted, appalled, in disbelief, disturbed, and downright horrified”. It was, one said, a “heinous breach”. Well, yeah. We kind of knew that

already and so did the media, but a gesture seemed to be in order. So the attorney plugged the council members’ statements into a Word document. The only actual writing he did consisted of a 103-word short introductory paragraph. Doing the math, at \$250 an hour that means he billed the council for 12 hours of work. Can you say “highway robbery”?

Back in June 2020 I wrote in this column of a resolution before council to hire their own on-call attorney.

There were two caveats added; the attorney must be a Hartford resident, and must also have an unblemished record in the practice of the law. When it came down to a vote, the residency factor passed easily, but they didn’t care about the record and voted it down. That’s because, as I had intimated, they’d already

made a deal with the press-release author who indeed has a well-known blemished record. Turns out I was right. I can say with assurance that the DTC honcho had a lot to do with those six Democrats being endorsed for council in the 2019 election. It’s the case of “I’ll scratch your back, you scratch my back”, also known as “One hand washes the other.” In other words, favoritism toward a political crony.



Continued on page 6



# Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

## Saint Patrick Week Update

Last week, we announced plans for a whole week of Irish history, culture, music and fellowship in Downtown Hartford from March 13-19.

Much progress has been made in the past few days. Lectures, storytelling, presentations, performances are all lining up. With both live events (COVID conditions permitting) and internet TV ([accessstv.org](http://accessstv.org)) and tie-ins with many Irish organizations...yes, Bridget, we will celebrate Irish culture in Hartford next month, even if there’s no St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

So what’s up? John Droney has loaned us 62 poster presentations on Irish culture and history, which will be displayed in windows along Pratt Street.

Melissa Murray is developing a documentary honoring our deceased friend, fiddler P.V. O’Donnell (“The Man With A Thousand Friends”). If you were involved with P.V. during the years he was playing and teaching in the Hartford area, you just might get a call! And if you have photos, articles or videos relating to P.V., contact us here at the Hartford News and we’ll give you info on how to send them along.



Irish Tenor John McCormack

Ready right now and eagerly awaited, is a 90-minute Power-Point presentation on Irish tenor John McCormack by Mike Fitzpatrick.

Then, on Monday night, March 15th (barring any COVID complications), nationally-known folk-singer Claudine Langille, will lead us in the song she wrote about P.V. “The Man With A Thousand Friends.” We’ll have copies of the song and the rule is: sing along!

The Hartford News will be publishing a special issue acting as a program for all seven days. Now you can help the whole effort by sending this article to your family and friends, directing them to [HartfordPublications.com](http://HartfordPublications.com) for last week’s edition, which included a story in this column about the Irish week.

With good weather and many people hopefully vaccinated, we just might make some history next month right here in River City!

## Eversource Urges Customers to Be Vigilant After Increased Reports of Scams

### Scammers Now Using More Sophisticated Methods

Most of us can recognize the classic utility scam involving a caller threatening to disconnect a customer’s electric or gas service because of an unpaid bill and demanding immediate payment.

But now Eversource is warning customers about new techniques being employed to steal customers’ money. Some of the energy company’s customers have reported receiving a call from someone claiming to be from Eversource and using a real employee’s name, offering a discount on their electric bill. Others have reported receiving an email that contains the Eversource logo. These are new deceptive tactics scammers are using to steal someone’s money and sensitive personal information.

“Scammers are constantly changing their tactics to take advantage of unsuspecting customers, and that’s why we’re always working to raise awareness,” said Eversource Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. What we always advise our customers to do if they receive a phone call, email or visit that doesn’t feel right –

don’t panic and don’t pay. We will never threaten to disconnect your service or demand instant payment.”

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, scammers have increased their calls, texts, emails, and in-person visits to convince people to make payments to avoid service disconnection. Scammers are opportunists – often targeting the most vulnerable, including senior citizens and low-income communities.

They also create panic for business owners and even major manufacturers, threatening to disrupt their most critical hours of operation.

Eversource offers the following tips to help avoid becoming a victim:

- Eversource representatives never demand instant payment over the phone, require the use of pre-paid debit cards or request customers meet at a payment center to make the payment.
- Never provide personal financial or account information to any unsolicited person on the phone, at the door or online,

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# THE HARTFORD NEWS

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Twain House & Museum and Latinas & Power Present

## A Conversation with NPR Journalist Hinojosa February 16

The Mark Twain House & Museum and Latinas & Power Corp. will present acclaimed journalist and producer Maria Hinojosa in conversation with Marilyn Alverio, CEO of Latinas and Power Corp, on Tuesday, February 16, at 7 pm. The conversation will cover journalism, representation, and Hinojosa’s new book, *Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America*.

As a reporter who was the first Latina in many newsrooms, Maria Hinojosa dreamed of a space where she could create independent, multimedia journalism that explores and gives a critical voice to the diverse American experience. She made that dream a reality in 2010 when she created Futuro Media, an independent, nonprofit newsroom based in Harlem, NYC with the mission to create multimedia content from a POC perspective. As the Anchor and Executive Producer of the Peabody Award-winning show Latino USA, distributed by PRX, as well as Co-Host of In The Thick, the Futuro Media’s award-winning political podcast,



Hinojosa has informed millions about the changing cultural and political landscape in America and abroad. She is also a contributor to the long-running, award-winning news program CBS Sunday Morning and a frequent guest on MSNBC.

Registration is \$30 and includes the discussion, a signed copy of *Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America*, and shipping within the United States. To register, click here: [https://www.crowdcast.io/e/maria-hinojosa/register?utm\\_campaign=Hinojosa%20Register&utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=calendar%20post](https://www.crowdcast.io/e/maria-hinojosa/register?utm_campaign=Hinojosa%20Register&utm_source=website&utm_medium=calendar%20post)

## Sign Up Now for Hartford Athletic Open Tryouts

Hartford Athletic will be hosting 2021 Open Tryouts in mid-February. Due to limited capacity, please sign up for the wait list below to reserve your place in line. Once the final date and location have been determined, the team will reach out to those on the Wait List first to purchase their registration. In the first two seasons, the team has signed three players to the first team out of open tryouts including current players Conor McGlynn and Alfonso Vazquez. Overall, five players were invited to continue their trial during preseason in 2020. For more information, go to <https://www.hartfordathletic.com/>



## City’s Snowy February Continues

Carrie Smith walks her dog along the Connecticut River at Riverfront Plaze Sunday morning during the opening stages of a snowstorm that dropped about six inches of snow on Hartford. A smaller storm on Tuesday left about three inches on the ground. Riverfront Recapture crews cleared all its pathways shortly after each storm. Some snow is expected this Sunday, Valentine’s Day, February 14, and a heavy storm is possible on Tuesday, February 16. (Hart photo)

## New State Program Assists Community College Students with Childcare Costs

A new program offered by the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and the Connecticut State University system is designed to help students who are having trouble affording both tuition and childcare. The program provides financial assistance for child care so you can pursue free education and training at one of Connecticut’s local community colleges from now through June 30, 2021.

### How To Qualify?

- Receive SNAP benefits
- Have children under the age of 13
- Enroll in an eligible certificate or training program at a local community college

### Which Programs Are Eligible?

Any SNAP employment and training certificate program offered at any Connecticut community college.

Programs include.

- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Business
- Veterinary Care
- And more!

### What Can Child Care Funds Be Used For?

- Securing child care during class and study time
- Child care at center, family-based provider or in your home

For more information, contact the SNAP E&T Coordinator at your local community college here: [portal.ct.gov/DSS/SNAP/SNAP-Employment-and-Training](https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/SNAP/SNAP-Employment-and-Training)

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Check out Careers at [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org) to apply now!





## Clemente Commemoration Feb. 21

The Roberto Clemente Commemorative Celebration has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 21. This event is organized by students at the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy, including Javier Custodio, Gabriel Custodio, Michael Infante and Dolan Cassone (missing from photo), as a capstone project and the Hartford Roberto Clemente Commemoration Committee. At noon, there will be a message from Roberto Clemente's son, Luis R. Clemente and personal testimonials on how Clemente inspired generations for his remarkable baseball career and social activism. Speakers will include: Pitchida Chhean (Former SMSA Student), Victor Caratini (MLB Chicago Cubs Catcher), Victor Rivera Collazo, MLB Roberto Clemente Foundation, Fred DeJesus-Retire HPS Principal/ Former RC Teammate, Andrew Marrero – UCONN Huskies pitcher, Jeffrey Dressler-Dressler Law and Josh Salomon- Hartford Yard Goats Owner, HPS Superintendent- Dr. Leslie Torres, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy-Principal- Jose Colon, City of Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, Waterbury State Representative Geraldo Reyes, Hartford State Representative Julio Concepcion Jr. You can watch it via Hartford Public Access TV and via Youtube. It will be available on Youtube after the 21st for viewing.

# Are You Warm and Fortunate this Winter?

COMMENTARY BY TOM SWARR

Do you feel frustrated and angry when paying your energy bills? Or do you feel fortunate to have the resources to pay your bills?

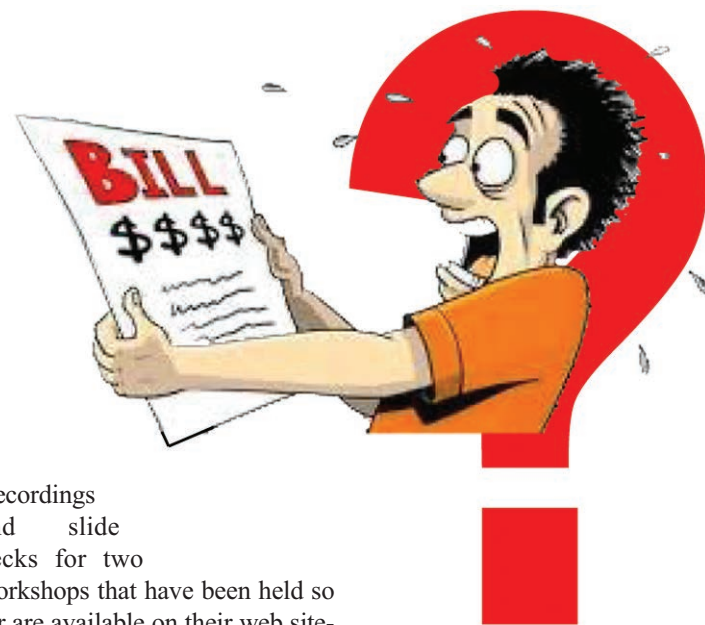
Nearly 40% of CT households cannot afford to pay their energy bills. They will have to choose between staying warm this winter or having enough money for food and other basic necessities. Energy costs in excess of 6% of household income is considered "unaffordable." For those below the poverty line, the excess costs above 6% of income average more than \$2,300 per household. There are programs to help those in need pay their bills, but an even better solution would be to promote home energy conservation measures to reduce those bills. Unfortunately, many of these homes also have health barriers that preclude the home energy assessments and access to state incentives for energy conservation measures.

The state's home energy solutions program has found that 23% of the low-income customers have health barriers in their homes that prevent weatherization measures. In urban communities as many as 50% of low-income homes have health barriers. Many of the barriers are a result of the age of the housing stock and include lead paint, asbestos, knob and tube wiring, vermiculite insulation, mold, and venting, gas leaks, and carbon monoxide associated with old furnaces and water heaters.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Residential Energy Efficiency Board are collaborating to develop solutions to mitigate health and safety barriers that prevent residential weatherization and energy efficiency work.

Recordings and slide decks for two workshops that have been held so far are available on their web site: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Energy/Conservation-and-Load-Management/Weatherization-Barrier-Mitigation>. Key issues identified include accessibility and funding. While there are numerous programs to help, there are often varying criteria for qualification and difficulties in coordinating various programs to address homes with multiple issues. Health and energy programs can be particularly difficult to connect. A potential solution being explored is One Touch (<https://onetouchhousing.com>), a program directed and managed by Tohn Environmental Services. One Touch uses a software platform to build tailored collaborations among health, housing, and energy home visiting programs to cost-effectively improve family access to their services. Other improvements under discussion are ways to simplify the administrative process of qualifying residents as low-income for multiple programs with varying criteria.

But remediation is expensive. A review of homes remediated under the Clean Energy Healthy Homes Initiative in 2016 through 2019 showed costs ranging from just over \$3,000 to nearly \$60,000 and averaging about \$21,000 per home. However, coordination of various programs may be a bigger challenge than having sufficient funding. Government programs are typically held to cost-benefit requirements to ensure public money is wisely spent. Running



those calculations one house at a time, or considering only energy or health benefits separately depending on the specific program may not yield the most cost-effective strategies. These administrative requirements can be a barrier to remediating the greatest number of homes. Flexibility to consider all benefits at a program level may make it possible to serve more homes.

If all this makes your head spin, take heart. There are dedicated people and organizations that can help you find and access services.

If you are struggling to pay energy bills, contact Operation Fuel at <https://operationfuel.org/gethelp/get-started/>. There are links to apply in person or online.

If you are behind on your bills, do not wait until the COVID-19 shut off moratorium ends. Get help now.

An easy way to explore energy efficiency options is to sign up for a virtual pre-assessment on the Eversource web site - <https://www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/save-money-energy/manage-energy-costs-usage/home-energy-solutions/virtual-pre-assessment>.

Finally, if someone in your family is suffering from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or some other health ailment you think might be aggravated by your hazards in your home, such as mold, lead paint, etc., contact the Children's Hospital Healthy Homes Program by filling out a web form (<https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health/community-child-health-programs/healthy-homes-program/>) or calling 860-837-6234.



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## GHMS Collaboration Portal

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[Hartfordmobility.com](http://Hartfordmobility.com)



## CT AL-Anon Courage to Change Meeting

Strength and Hope for Friends and Families of Alcoholics – Meetings are available almost everyday. A full list of Zoom accessible meetings can be found at [www.ctalanon.org](http://www.ctalanon.org) Please look at 'Meetings by Town for the most updated information

For more meeting times and information about Al-Anon visit [www.alanon.org](http://www.alanon.org) or call 1-888-8ALANON (1-888-825-2666)



Hartford residents share their thoughts on the COVID-19 vaccine

Continued from page 1

iPad so their families can witness their critically ill folk pass...was never anything I would have ever imagined before. The lack of protective gear for even the most critical workers, and the inconsistent advice coming from leadership both local and national was confusing and infuriating. The virus forced me into a very reactive space. When the vaccine was first released, I was hesitant. I was worried that the CDC had been infiltrated with Trump loyalists, dirtying up the science. As a POC, I did not believe that the government was vested in solving the COVID problem. I did, however, trust Dr. Fauci. I read every medical journal article and everything I could find that Dr. Fauci said about the pending vaccines. Eventually, I got the Pfizer vaccine. It felt empowering to be part of a long-term solution to this illness. I have since given vaccines to dozens of others. It makes me feel optimistic that we can conquer COVID and be better as a people. We must protect each other. We must see each other as members of one big family. We must focus on survival. We will thrive, if we believe in the power of us.”  
**Gabriella Smith, PA-C**



“I was elated when I got the call from the VA asking if I would like to get the vaccine. Four days later I got the shot and I feel fine. It is important that we all get the shot to help prevent others from dying from COVID. I felt I did my part.”

**rJo Winch, former Hartford City Councilwoman**

“I am still waiting for my age group to be called. It is taking forever for those who are 65+. I have faith that the vaccine will do the job and everything will be better soon.”

**Julio Concepcion, Sr., Hartford resident**

“It’s important to take the vaccinations if you feel good about it. Most people want to

wait to see the side effects, as some people do not want it and they don’t trust it. It’s a mixed bag.”

**Hyacinth Yennie, Chair MARG NRZ**

“The issue is not one of ignorance, it’s one of trust. Many healthcare industry professionals and those in government don’t seem to understand that continually updating and changing how to handle COVID-19 does not inspire trust. When it comes to vaccinating the constituents, many, including myself, just don’t trust the sales pitch. I feel that I am being sold a pig with lipstick.”

**J. Stan McCauley, CEO AccessTV.org**

“As a city, I think we have done a great job ensuring that elderly homes/facilities and individuals who are 75+ get vaccinated. I have been even more impressed that the city has not relied entirely on social media to distribute information. We have had doorknockers engage with residents one-on-one so they are kept informed, which is a real testament to Hartford’s leadership. I look forward to continuing stage 2 so more folks who are 65+, along

Easiest Ways To For Those Age 65 And Over Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

By Phone:

Multilingual State Line: 877-918-2224, M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Significant improvement have been made to the state line, very short wait.  
Multilingual Hartford Healthcare Line: 860-827-7690, M-F 800 AM - 5:00 PM  
Multilingual City Health Dept: 860-757-4830, M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. City is expanding staffing to answer calls.



Online:

ct.gov/covicvaccine: State of CT: Put your zip code in top corner  
HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine: Hartford Healthcare (Hartford Hospital):  
TrinityHealthOfNE.org/appointment: Trinity Healthcare (St. Francis Hospital)  
City of Hartford: https://www.hartfordct.gov. There is a link at the top of the City of Hartford website to the City Vaccine Interest Online Form. They will help residents age 65+ to get an appointment. It does ask if you have insurance, but you will not be charged. And if you do not have insurance, you can still sign up.

with additional frontline workers, get their vaccinations and can rest a little easier knowing their health is safeguarding against this terrible virus.”

**Maly Rosado, President Hartford City Council**

“I am eagerly awaiting get-

ting my vaccination and happy to see that the city has such a robust outreach. Several older neighbors have been called and advised to go to the stadium. Go Hartford--we’ll lick this thing yet!”

**John Gale, Hartford City Councilman**

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### www.chooseCREC.org

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## Hartford's CDBG Applications Now Available

Applications for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds are now available. For further information including copies of applications and instructions, please visit Central Grants’ website at <https://www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Departments/OMBG/Central-Grants/Federal-Grants>. Please note that all applications can only be submitted digitally. When your organization is ready to submit the application, please contact Evan Johnson of Central Grants, who will send each applicant an individual online drop box for their agency to upload their individual application and application materials. Completed applications are due to Office of Central Grants Administration no later than 3:00 pm on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Feel free forward this notice to anyone you think may be interested in applying for HUD funding for the coming fiscal year. New applicants are always welcome. If you have questions, please email me [JOHNE003@hartford.gov](mailto:JOHNE003@hartford.gov) , Lionel Rigler at [RIGLL001@hartford.gov](mailto:RIGLL001@hartford.gov), or Ronnie Vazquez at [ronnie.vazquez@hartford.gov](mailto:ronnie.vazquez@hartford.gov)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Elizabeth Leatha Jenkins, AKA Elizabeth L. Jenkins (21-00114)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 8, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Clinton Wayne Jenkins  
c/o John W Bradley  
Rome Mcguigan, PC  
One State Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Walter C. Sampson (21-00116)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 8, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Priscilla Sampson  
c/o Richard P Kuzmak,  
Mcvane Bellobuono Kuzmak  
801 Maple Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Jill Mehler (21-00112)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 5, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Jessica Mehler  
177 Auburn Road  
West Hartford, CT 06119

### CITY OF HARTFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WAITING LIST OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Hartford Housing Authority, through Imagineers will accept 4,000 pre-applications to be considered for its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program waiting list through a computer-generated lottery. The voucher program offers rent subsidies to households who meet Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) eligibility guidelines.

HCV pre-applications will be available beginning February 19, 2021 at 9:00am. You are strongly encouraged to apply using the online HCV pre-application. To access the HCV online pre-application, please go to <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/CT2561>. The online application is very easy to use and submit online, however if you are not able to access the online version you can also fill-out a paper HCV pre-application. You can also get a paper HCV pre-application in one the following ways:

- You may download the pre-application form at: <http://www.cthcvp.org/>.
- The HCV pre-application will also be available in the Hartford Courant newspaper on February 19, 2021.
- A paper version of the HCV pre-application may also be picked up in person at the City of Hartford, Department of Development Services, Housing Division’s lobby located at 260 Constitution Plaza, first floor, Hartford, CT or at Imagineers’ lobby located at 635 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT February 19, 2021 thru February 25, 2021 from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

HCV pre-applications not completed online will be accepted by mail only and must be clearly postmarked no earlier than February 19, 2021 and no later than February 25, 2021. No application will be accepted by email, hand delivery, or by fax. Envelopes postmarked **before** February 19, 2021 and **after** February 25, 2021 will be rejected. The HCV pre-application form will detail the specifics of where to mail the pre-application form.

- Only one pre-application per family will be accepted. An applicant who applies as the head of household and is listed as a co-head or spouse on another application will result in a duplicate application and will be rejected.
- All pre-applications must be completely filled out and legible in order to be considered for the lottery selection.
- You will need the following information to fill out the form: names, social security numbers, birthdates and income information for everyone in the household.
- Applicants do not need to rush to apply as this wait list is not on a first-come, first-served basis. All pre-applicants will have an equal opportunity of being selected. The waiting list will close on February 25, 2021.
- Only those selected through the computer-generated lottery will be notified in writing by April 30, 2021.

The HCV pre-application form will also appear in multiple area newspapers, Hartford libraries, community service agencies, as well as website: [https://www.imagineersllc.com/program\\_management.asp](https://www.imagineersllc.com/program_management.asp)

It is the policy of the City of Hartford Housing Authority to provide reasonable accommodations for those qualified individuals. To request a reasonable accommodation, please call 860-522-1028 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

You will be able to submit a pre-application form if: you are elderly, disabled, single, displaced or a family regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, are 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor, are a citizen, or a non-citizen with eligible immigration status, can pass a criminal history screening and your income does not exceed the 2020 income limits listed below based on family size:

**Income Limit:** Total household income cannot exceed the income limit for each household size:

Household size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income Limit	35,950	41,050	46,200	51,300	55,450	59,550	63,650	67,750

*We are an equal housing provider and we do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identify, disability, marital or familial status.*

### Increase in Utility Bill Scams

**Continued from page 2**

even if they seem legitimate.

- Beware – some sophisticated scammers can manipulate their caller ID to say the caller is with Eversource.
- Customers who are scheduled for disconnection due to non-payment receive a written notice that includes information on how to maintain their service.
- Customers can verify they are speaking with an Eversource representative by asking for some basic information about their account like the name on the account, the account address, and the exact past due balance.

Eversource urges anyone who believes they are a target of improper solicitation to immediately contact local law enforcement. Customers are also encouraged to contact the energy company at 1-800-286-2000 if they receive a call, text, email or if someone shows up at your door to verify it’s Eversource. For more information on how to protect personal information and avoid becoming a victim of utility scams, visit [Eversource.com](http://Eversource.com) and the Utilities United Against Scams websites. Concerned customers can also report scams and fraudulent activity by calling the Connecticut Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Unit at 860-808-5420.

### The Price Is Wrong

**Continued from page 2**

As a longtime professional writer I can tell you that writing press releases is about the lowest form of journalism. It actually doesn’t even require a professional writer, never mind an attorney. This press release could have been written by just about anyone with a decent command of the English language and a grasp of the mechanics of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. It would have taken no more than two or three hours, and it could have been done for free. There are nine councilors and eight council assistants right there at City Hall, all of them on the city payroll, in addition to the aforementioned Corporation Counsel lawyers. With more than two dozen people at hand, it’s unconscionable that they incurred this unnecessary expense just to throw some significantly over-inflated bucks at the guy they owe their jobs to. You want heinous? There it is.

#### Case Manager Hartford Area

Innovative, Multi-Service non-profit seeking energetic, creative, team-oriented Case Manager. See our website – [handsonhartford.org](http://handsonhartford.org). Send letter of interest & resume to: Mary Ellen Laskarzewski, Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford CT 06106. Email: [melaskarewski@handsonhartford.org](mailto:melaskarewski@handsonhartford.org). No phone calls please. Closing date 02/28/2021 AA/EOE

#### Tenant Assistant Hartford Area

Innovative, Multi-Service non-profit seeking energetic, creative, team-oriented Tenant Assistant. See our website – [handsonhartford.org](http://handsonhartford.org). Send letter of interest & resume to: Mary Ellen Laskarzewski, Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford CT 06106. Email: [melaskarewski@handsonhartford.org](mailto:melaskarewski@handsonhartford.org). No phone calls please. Closing date 02/28/2021 AA/EOEE

#### Program Assistant Hartford Area

Innovative, Multi-Service non-profit seeking energetic, creative, team-oriented Program Assistant. See our website – [handsonhartford.org](http://handsonhartford.org). Send letter of interest & resume to: Abie Kelly, Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford CT 06106. Email: [akelly@handsonhartford.org](mailto:akelly@handsonhartford.org). No phone calls please. Closing date 02/28/2021 AA/EOE

#### Facilities, Administrative and Human Resources Coordinator, Hartford Area

Innovative, Multi-Service non-profit seeking energetic, creative, team-oriented Facilities, Administrative and Human Resources Coordinator. See our website – [handsonhartford.org](http://handsonhartford.org). Send letter of interest & resume to: Pamela Fitzgerald, Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford CT 06106. Email: [pfitzgerald@handsonhartford.org](mailto:pfitzgerald@handsonhartford.org). No phone calls please. Closing date 02/28/2021 AA/EOE



News Briefs

Continued from page 1

the institutional racism that we as a nation are currently attempting to dismantle,” will start tonight, February 11, at 6 pm. The talks, presented by Kamora’s Cultural Corner of Hartford, will also be held on Feb 18 and 25 at the same time. Free, but space limited. Register at see.ctinfo@gmail.com.

Atheneum  
Celebration of  
Black Heritage  
Saturday

This Saturday, February 13, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street, Downtown Hartford, will present “Virtual Second Saturdays for Families: Black Heritage Day, from 12-5 pm. This family event focusing on African American history, is free to attend. Go to thewadsworth.org/events for more information.

City Strollers’ City  
Sip Challenge

Turn your New Year’s Resolution to get more exercise into having some fun. Plot a walking course to your favorite Hartford businesses for a coffee or any other beverage. Take a selfie with

#CitySipChallenge and tag and post to @HartfordCityStrollers. This enters you in a chance for Hartford City Strollers PRIZE!! Instagram or Facebook!

Food Distribution at  
Rentschler Field

Foodshare has resumed emergency food distribution at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford, every Tuesday from 9:30 am - 1pm. Residents of Hartford and Tolland Counties are eligible for one package of food each week for their families. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Foodshare has distributed over six million meals in central Connecticut. To make a donation, go to Foodshare.org

HPD Now Recruiting  
for New Members

The Hartford Police Department is now recruiting for new members. Salary is \$52,866-\$71,480 annually. Benefits include a pension and retirement plan; educational incentives, health and dental plan and paid vacations. You must be at least 21 years old; a U.S. citizen; and have a valid driver’s license and high school diploma or GED. For more information, go to:

Instagram@hartfordctpolice\_recruit  
ment

Cultivating Hope at  
Library

Hartford Public Library will offer live and virtual versions on how to Learn To Cultivate Hope. The live event will include an art-related activity and will be held Wednesday, February 24, from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Downtown Library’s Center for Contemporary Culture, 500 Main Street. The virtual Zoom event will be held the following day, Thursday, February 25, from 7:00-8:00 pm and will include favorite quotes, songs, poems, or books that inspire hope for you. Call to register, 860-695-7401 or email iblean@hplct.org

Joan Dauber Food  
Bank on Tower Ave.

The Joan Dauber Food Bank, 675 Tower Avenue (Mount Sinai Hospital Campus of Trinity Healthcare) , Hartford, distributes food to those in need on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM and on the 3rd Saturday of the month (February 20) from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please bring an ID with your full name and address. Families are asked

to limit themselves to one food package per month so that there is enough to go around. Call (860) 714-2845 for more information.

Hartford Police  
Explorers Taking  
New Members

Hartford youth between the ages of 13-20 who are interested in a career in law enforcement can now sign up for the Hartford Police Explorers program. The program provides training in law enforcement, social activities, leadership training, physical fitness programs, outdoor activities and more. You must maintain at least a C average in school, have no criminal record and be willing to attend explorer activities and commit to a code of conduct and uphold the image of the Hartford Police Department. You will also have to complete an oral interview and pass a background examination. For more information, contact HPD Sgt. Nikki Mordasiewicz at 860-757-4247 or shem001@hartford.gov.

Real Art Ways Gets  
\$20,000 Grant

Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) recently announced a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to Real Art Ways (RAW)

in Hartford. This grant will support the development of a new documentary theater piece about those living with metastatic breast cancer.“Congratulations to Real Art Ways for receiving this \$20,000 grant. Our cultural institutions have been hit particularly hard by this pandemic. The arts are a vital part of our society and they need our support in weathering this crisis. I will continue to fight for more relief for the arts in the First District and across the nation,” said Larson. “Artmaking is a human activity that tells us something about who we are. Civilizations are known by their art. Real Art Ways is grateful to receive this national recognition and support for artists,” said Will K. Wilkins, Executive Director of Real Art Ways.

Sign Up Now for PAL

The Hartford Police Athletic League (PAL) is now taking registrations from Hartford students. Registration is free. The program runs through June, Monday through Friday, 3:30-7:30 pm. Activities include homework assistance, field trips, arts and crafts and numerous sports, including basketball, baseball, softball, hockey and golf. Open to boys and girls. For more information, call Officer Vinny at 860-757-4305.

C L A S S I F I E D A D S

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Rooms for rent in Hartford’s West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

Apartments for Rent

Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

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Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

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1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments on Arnold Street and Deerfield Avenue. Appliances included cold flat. Section 8 welcome. Affordable rents. Call 860-752-9060.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a spacious 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975-\$850 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

Apartments for Rent

Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or Pablo at 860-983-9444.

Room for Rent

Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

Room for Rent

Room for rent. 45 Love Lane, Hartford, CT. \$130/week. Furnished room, utilities included, kitchen privileges. Call 860-965-7688.

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Vintage Historic  
Building in  
Downtown Hartford

Small sleeping rooms. Large windows. Clean, quiet and safe. Located on Asylum Street in Downtown Hartford. On busline. References required. \$150-\$165 weekly. Call 860-985-7999. Text or leave message if no answer.

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Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor’s office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

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Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

Apartamentos Para Alquiler:

Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios disponibles. Estacionamiento disponible. \*\* Aceptamos Section 8\*\*. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.



# El Informativo Latino

## Lamont: Personas de 65 años o más podrán recibir la vacuna

El gobernador Ned Lamont dijo el miércoles que los residentes de 65 años o más podrán comenzar a recibir la vacuna COVID-19 "dentro de 10 días aproximadamente", dependiendo del flujo de vacuna a Connecticut desde el gobierno federal.

"El lanzamiento va a ser más o menos lo que fue para los de 75 (años) o más", dijo el demócrata, que visitó una clínica de vacunación en Waterbury.

Connecticut ha permitido que las personas se inscriban para las citas de vacunación de varias maneras, incluso en línea, por teléfono y a través de varios proveedores de atención médica.

Si bien Lamont reconoció que podría tomar más tiempo, posiblemente dos semanas, hasta que la cohorte de más de 65 años pueda recibir la vacuna, señaló que ha habido avances en la vacunación de las personas mayores. En algunas



ciudades, dijo, el 80% de los residentes de 75 años o más han recibido su primera dosis.

La Dra. Deidre Gifford, comisionada interina del Departamento de Salud Pública del estado, dijo durante una reunión del subcomité

de asignación de vacunas el martes que Connecticut está muy cerca de administrar dosis a la mitad de la población de 75 años o más del estado.

"Pero tenemos más trabajo por hacer, obviamente", dijo, y señaló que los funcionarios quieren asegurarse de que las vacunas se distribuyan de manera equitativa. Se están tomando medidas en varias comunidades para llegar a las personas mayores y asegurarse de que reciban la vacuna. En Waterbury, por ejemplo, hay planes para comenzar a lanzar clínicas móviles "emergentes" en complejos de viviendas para personas mayores el lunes.

Connecticut, mientras tanto, ha visto recientemente un ligero aumento en la cantidad de vacunas que está recibiendo del gobierno federal. Lamont dijo que el estado está recibiendo alrededor de 55,000 dosis a la semana. A fines del mes pasado, el estado promediaba casi 47,000 dosis por semana.

El gobernador dijo que el estado también está siendo notificado con tres semanas de anticipación sobre la cantidad de vacuna que puede esperar. Anteriormente, el aviso era de solo una semana.

"Tenemos mucha más claridad hoy que hace un mes", dijo Lamont, quien señaló que el estado tiene la capacidad de manejar muchas más vacunas, pero solo necesita más suministro del gobierno federal.

Expresó su optimismo de que la producción de vacunas aumentará antes de lo esperado. Como copresidente del Grupo de Trabajo de Respuesta ante Desastres y Pandemias de la Asociación Nacional de Gobernadores, Lamont habló el miércoles con el CEO de Pfizer, Albert Bourla, quien le dio "gran confianza" en que tanto Pfizer como Moderna pueden aumentar la producción en uno o dos meses, en lugar de seis meses a un año. *By Iris Rodriguez*

## Extienden horarios de líneas telefónicas para citas de vacunas en CT

La línea telefónica para ayudar a los residentes de Connecticut a inscribirse en las citas para la vacuna COVID-19 estará abierta por más tiempo, a partir de hoy.

El Departamento de Salud Pública del estado y United Way de Connecticut están ampliando la disponibilidad y el acceso a la programación de citas de vacunas a través de la Línea de Asistencia para Citas de Vacunas del estado, 877-918-2224.

A partir de hoy, la línea telefónica para programar citas estará abierta de 8 a.m. a 8 p.m., los siete días de la semana.

El Departamento de Salud del estado dijo que 125 personas estarán disponibles para atender llamadas telefónicas y que tienen la capacidad de reservar hasta 10,000 citas en 12 ubicaciones en todo el estado.

"United Way de Connecticut ha sido un socio clave en este tremendo esfuerzo para vacunar a la mayor cantidad posible de residentes de Connecticut. Ampliar la cantidad de operadores, horas cada día y pasar a siete días a la semana muestra cuán en serio nos estamos tomando este esfuerzo", dijo la comisionada interina del DPH, la Dra. Deidre Gifford, en un comunicado.

El estado se centra en vacunar a los residentes de 75 años o más. Se espera que la Fase 1b se amplíe a personas de entre 65 y 74 años en las próximas semanas.

United Way dijo que la asistencia con el idioma está disponible para aquellos que la necesitan y que las personas con problemas de audición pueden acceder a la línea de asistencia para citas de Vacunas marcando 7-1-1. *By Iris Rodriguez*

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## La historia negra es la historia de CT

El Mes de la Historia Negra celebra las voces, historias y contribuciones de los afroamericanos a la historia de los Estados Unidos. El mes de febrero es un momento para recordar, reflexionar y celebrar esa excelencia. *By Iris Rodriguez*

## ¡Obtenga una lasaña gratis a través de Lasagne Love!



"Si usted es mamá, papá o cuidador que ha sido afectado por COVID, queremos ayudar. Deje que uno de nosotros le lleve una lasaña casera o un plato principal a su familia una noche". Sí, así de sencillo. Lasagne Love es un obsequio sin compromiso de una comida gratis entregada en su puerta. Está organizado a nivel nacional, pero lo hace y entrega un vecino localmente. No se hicieron preguntas. Solo necesita ir en línea a <https://www.lasagnealove.org/> y solicitar una comida y seguir las instrucciones.

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